

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 03174 151143Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3174

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR TU EG

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF EGYPTIAN SUPPORT FOR MAINTAINING
TURKISH OPIUM BAN

REF: ANKARA 3683 (NOTAL)

1. BOTH PRECEDENT OF PAST EGYPTIAN POSITIONS ON STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONVENTIONS AND EGYPTIAN SELF-INTEREST
AS VICTIM COUNTRY SUFFERING FROM SMUGGLED TURKISH OPIUM
STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT GOE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE CESSATION OF
TURKISH OPIUM PRODUCTION. WHETHER IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO
BECOME FIRST THIRD WORLD COUNTRY TO INTERVENE WITH TURKEY FOR
CONTINUATION OF 1971 OPIUM POPPY BAN IS PROBLEMATIC, HOWEVER,
AND WILL DEPEND ON A) HOW FAR GOE IS PREPARED TO PUSH ITS GOOD
RELATIONS WITH TURKEY, AND B) HOW MUCH OF AN INTERNAL TURKISH
MATTER GOE (PRIMARILY MFA/LAWYERS) SEES OPIUM PRODUCTION TO
BE. LATTER IS IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION BECAUSE OF GOE'S STRONG
RELUCTANCE TO TAKE ANY POSITION GIVING ASSENT TO INTERVENTION
BY STATES IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHERS.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 03174 151143Z

2. WE BELIEVE THAT IF CONFRONTED WITH ISSUE THERE WILL BE DIVERGENCE OF VIEW WITHIN EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND MINISTRY OF HEALTH, BOTH OF WHICH ARE AWARE OF ACUTE PROBLEM OF OPIUM SMUGGLING INTO EGYPT, WILL PROBABLY LINE UP FOR INTERVENTION; MFA WILL PROBABLY BE AGAINST IT. ULTIMATE DECISION AS TO WHAT COURSE OF ACTION TO TAKE WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO COME FROM SADAT PERSONALLY.

3. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER IN FAVOR OF GOE INTERVENTION, BUT TO DO SO IT WOULD BE BEST IF GOE COULD BE CONVINCED THAT ISSUE WAS INTERNATIONAL AND NOT SIMPLY ONE OF CONCERN TO USG. IF FRG, UK, AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES COULD BE PERSUADED TO MAKE PARALLEL APPROACHES WITH U.S. TO GOE, MFA MAY BE PERSUADED THAT THEIR CONCERN ABOUT LEGALITY OF INTERVENTION IS OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE TO INTERNATIONAL OPPOSITION TO LIFTING OF POPPY BAN AND TO DAMAGE BEING INFLICTED ON EGYPT BY RESUMED OPIUM PRODUCTION.
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